

The Least of These...

God's Power

Culture measures a person's worth by power, popularity, status, and perfection. But the God measures worth on a radically different scale. When God wants calls, He rarely calls the cultural elites, spiritual heavyweights, or the socially powerful. Instead, He chooses the overlooked, the fearful, the broken, and the forgotten.

We will be exploring how God uses unlikely characters to display His divine glory. When our strength is absent, His power is undeniable. Faith challenges us to stop letting our limitations or past failures keep us from stepping into God's calling.

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being[a] might boast in the presence of God. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

God meets us in our weakness, redefines our identity, and strips away our self-reliance so His power becomes our only explanation for victory.

Heroes of Faith

1 To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. 2 It was by their faith that people of ancient times won God's approval. 3 It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen. Hebrews 11:1-3

It was by faith that:

- Abel offered a better sacrifice
- Noah heard God and built a boat
- Abraham obeyed, followed, fathered, and sacrificed
- Isaac blessed his sons Jacob and Esau
- Jacob blessed his sons
- Moses' parents hid him
- Moses fled Egypt and returned to lead God's people

32 Should I go on? There isn't enough time for me to speak of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Hebrews 11:32

God Calls the Broken

11 Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with

you, O mighty man of valor.” 13 And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” Judges 6:11-13

God does not evaluate your potential based on your abilities. Stop letting your present circumstances dictate your spiritual identity.

I Must Decrease

2 The Lord said to Gideon, “The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ 3 Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.’” Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

4 And the Lord said to Gideon, “The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ shall not go.” 5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, “Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink.” 6 And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. 7 And the Lord said to Gideon, “With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home.” Judges 7:2-7

When God permits your strength, energy, skill, budget, or team size to shrink...He is not abandoning the mission—He is setting the stage so that only He gets the glory.

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30

To Show His Power

19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. 20 Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!” 21 Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled. Judges 7:19-21

God is not waiting for your moment of greatness. He is waiting for your faith in Him.

Made Perfect

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – In what area of life do you currently feel like you are "hiding in a winepress"? What are you afraid of and how can you lean more on Him?

Tuesday – How does knowing God sees you as a "mighty warrior" change how you view your current weaknesses? How does it help redirect your faith to Him?

Wednesday – Has God ever stripped away your resources or plans to force you to rely on Him? What happened?

Thursday – What is one false security (wealth, talent, connections) you need to stop leaning on this week?

Friday – How can you step out in obedience today even if you still feel under-equipped, weak, or just not ready?